

QUAKER NEWSLETTER

GAINESVILLE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS

Newsletter Editor:

Annie McPherson

anniemcp@bellsouth.net

Photographs: Bill Mitchell

Meeting Place: 702 NW 38th St., Gainesville, Fla. 32605

Phone: 352-372-1070

<http://www.afn.org/~quakers/>

Clerk: Mona Morris

⇒ *Newsletter submissions are due the Monday before the last Sunday of the month*

NEWSLETTER, THIRD MONTH, 2011

HARMONY WITHIN THE MEETING COMMUNITY

Query: Are love and unity maintained among us?

When differences arise, do we settle them in a spirit of love and humility? Are we careful not to hold an idea too firmly, knowing that another may bring us closer to the truth? Are we patient and considerate towards those we find difficult to understand or like? Do we demonstrate a forgiving spirit? Do we have concern and respect for the reputation of others? When people are hurt, do we take care to hold them up with a tender heart? Do we respect that of God in each person, though it may be expressed in unfamiliar ways or may be difficult for us to discern?

Advice: Maintain love and unity by avoiding tale bearing and detraction. Settle differences promptly, in a manner free from resentment. When we have a difference with another person, speak to them in private “in the love and wisdom that is gentle and pure”. Be aware that verbal violence can be as destructive as physical violence. Be careful that our language does not incorporate violence, consciously or unconsciously. Listen patiently, and seek the truth another person’s expressions may contain for us. Be willing to seek and willing to receive counsel and help from one another. In our daily lives, seek to know one another in the things that are eternal, and to enter with ready empathy and sensitive discretion into the joys, sorrows and needs of each other. Be mindful that everyone is included in the life and activities of the Meeting.

Ministry & Nurture

Please Hold in the Light: Marie and Dave Parsons, Eleanor and Andy Merritt

Sunday, March 20: We will hold Meeting for Worship outside followed by our meeting’s Birthday Party pot luck in the social room.

Southeastern Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering: Each year Friends from Georgia and Florida gather for a half week of spiritual renewal, business and fun over Easter weekend. We meet at the Methodist Life Enrichment Center in Fruitland Park, north of Leesburg off 441. This year it will be held from Wednesday, April 20 through Sunday, April 24. All are invited to attend for all or part of the time. Accommodations range from bringing your own tents and meals, to European style hotel rooms and a cafeteria. The speakers are the authors of Fit for Freedom; not for Friendship.

If anyone would like to attend the gathering and needs financial assistance, please speak to the clerk.

Sunday, May 29th: **Smiti Nepal** and **Elliot Campbell**, grandson of **Morrie Trimmer** and **Betty Odum**, will be married under the care of Westerly Monthly Meeting at the Kanapaha Botanical Gardens starting at 6 p.m. People from our meeting are needed to help serve refreshments. This is Memorial Day Weekend. If anyone can help, please contact the clerk, Mona Morris, or Wedding Committee members, Laura Winefordner and Dick Beardsley.

Words to Contemplate: “When you see the Spirit shine through people in spite of unimaginable human destructiveness . . . when you see people healed, forgiven, learning and loving life with such zest that tragedy is over-shadowed . . . then you know the Power of Life that is present, palpable and moving among us is so much greater than any human failings, of which there are so many. Please join me and all the children of God in celebrating our daily kindnesses, generousities and explorations.” *Nadine Hoover*, Coordinator, Friends Peace Teams to Indonesia

Friendly Reading Group: *Sandy Lyon, Clerk*

The Friendly Reading Group meets from 1-2 PM on the third First Day of the month, September through June. We take a break during July and August. Anyone is free to suggest a book and to facilitate the discussion. The



Friendly Reading Group is a good way to expand your reading and take part in an informal discussion on a variety of subjects. You do not need to read the selections to attend, but will gain more from the discussion if you are familiar with the selection. The March 20th meeting will be **People of the Book**, by Geraldine Brooks. This historical novel is based on the *Sarajevo Haggadah*, a priceless and rare book that was preserved through several generations. Carol Clarke and Betty Odum will lead the discussion. On April 17 we will discuss **Fit for Freedom, Not for Friendship: The Myth of Racial Justice**. The authors, Vanessa Julye and Donna McDaniel, will be the speakers at the SEYM gathering the following week. We are looking for someone to leads that discussion as well as for the May 15th discussion of **Blade Runner (Do Droids Dream of Electric Sheep)** by Philip K. Dick.

Yoga: Mondays at 6pm in the meetinghouse.

Film Night: Friday, March 18th at 7 pm we will show an unusual anti-war film, “The Cuckoo,” about a Finnish soldier and a Russian soldier who are both traumatized and on the run in Northern Finland in the final days of WW II. They are both taken in by a native Sami woman who has lost her husband in the war. Because none of the three understands a word of the others’ languages, the result is a comic but almost tragic misunderstanding that eventually leads to reconciliation and their common appreciation of the horror of war... a very different, moving, and beautiful film.

Peace & Social Concerns Committee will meet on March 27th at 9:40 am in the Meetinghouse Library.

Second Month 2011 GFM CALENDAR

Worship 11am First Day (Sunday)

Unless noted, meetings are at the Meetinghouse

2/27/11	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
		12:30pm	Bible Study
		3:00pm	Craft Group: Leaf Printing w/ Dick
2/28/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
3/1/11	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
3/6/11	Sun	9:30am	Library & Hospitality & Building/Grounds/Landscaping Committees
		1pm	Forum: Haiti Hurricane Relief w/ Shawna & Michael
3/7/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
3/12/11	Sat	6pm	St. Patrick's Day Dinner
3/13/11	Sun	1pm	Meeting for Business
3/14/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
3/18/11	Fri	7pm	Film Night: The Cuckoo
3/19/11	Sat	6pm	Vegetarian Cooking Class & Dinner at Gary's
3/20/11	Sun	9:30am	Singing
		11am	Meeting for Worship Outside
		12:30pm	Gainesville Friends Meeting House Birthday Potluck 🍰
		1pm	Friendly Reading Group
3/21/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
3/27/11	Sun	9:40am	Peace & Social Concerns Committee
		12:45pm	Bible Study
3/28/11	Mon	6pm	Yoga
4/1/11	Fri	6pm	Welcoming Party for Shawna
4/3/11	Sun	9:30am	Library & Hospitality & Building/Grounds/Landscaping Committees
		1pm	Forum: US Policy in Latin America w/ film "South of the Border"
4/5/11	Tues	11:30am	Friendly Lunch at Books Inc.
4/20-24			SEYM Yearly Meeting Gathering

From Gary and Carol ...Based on our discussion of The Prosperous Way Down, Gainesville Friends are considering organizing a series of vegetarian cooking classes, where different folks from the Meeting would share favorite recipes and cooking methods. There'll be a trial run in March, and all who are interested, especially those who'd consider teaching a class in the future, are invited to attend. Gary Arthur will prepare the first dinner in his own kitchen. The menu: *Broiled tofu, roasted vegetables, baked sweet potatoes, chard and brown rice*. We will split the costs of purchasing the food and fuel between all who attend. If you'd like to attend, please plan to gather for cooking on Saturday, March 19th at 6 PM at Gary's house, 1714 NW 11th Road, Gainesville. Reservations required. Please phone 224-5143 or email garya365@gmail.com before 3/18.



Forum: On Sunday, March 6th at 1 pm Shawna Doran and Michael Canney will report on their recent trip to Haiti. The program will include short video clips, slides, and plans to work with Haitians on projects; including a rural school started by two young Haitian men, a health clinic in Papaye, and a school for earthquake refugees in Port-au-prince. There will be a discussion about the possibility of organizing a more permanent Quaker people-to-people program in Haiti (ProHaiti?) modeled after ProNica.

SAVE THE DATE! Picnic at Duirwood.... Annie & David invite Friends to a picnic lunch at their property in Columbia County on Saturday April 9th. More details to follow. Annie anniemcp@bellsouth.net

Peace & Social Concerns Committee will meet at 9:40 am on Sunday, March 27, at the Meeting House. This past month there has been widespread interest across several of the Meetings' committees in organizing an organic garden at the Meeting and cooperating with other churches and organizations in the community in promoting home and community gardening. An ad hoc committee has been formed to coordinate our efforts. Anyone in the Meeting interested in working with the Committee or in any aspect of organic or community gardening is asked to contact Dick Beardsley at 386/ 462-3201 or Jim Morrison at morriso2005@yahoo.com.



PARTY, PARTY, PARTY! There will be a welcoming party for Shawna Doran, who is joining our Meeting with a transfer from St. Petersburg Meeting. It will be a potluck dinner on Friday April 1st at 6 pm at the home of Gary Arthur. Everyone come with celebration in mind! Please notify Gary that you plan to come at 224-5143 or garya365@gmail.com

Worship with a Concern for Business Agenda for March 13th at 1pm

Queries for the 2nd Month 2011

Adjustments to Agenda

Reports:

Treasurer's Report
Ministry and Nurture Committee
Peace & Social Concerns Committee
Fund Raising Committee
Meeting house, Building & Landscaping Committee
Library Committee
Hospitality Committee
First Day School Committee



Old Business

Corresponding Secretary
Report of SEYM Interim Business Meeting

New Business

Wedding oversight committee
Transfer of Membership-Shawna Doran from St. Petersburg Meeting
Meetinghouse use request: Pro-Nica Board of Directors Meeting April 16, 2011

Hospitality Committee

Quaker Dinners: On *March 12th at 6pm* we will have a **St. Patrick's Dinner**. It has been set as vegetarian and regular Irish stew(s), cabbage, carrots, mashed and /or boiled potatoes, homemade breads, green lemonade and bread pudding with whiskey sauce. Entertainment will be a leprechaun search, games, and Irish sing-a-long. Sheree is compiling recipes and Mona will put them in booklet form to be given to volunteer cooks. Gene Beardsley will handle the \$10 registration.

On *May 14th*, we will have our **Local Harvest Dinner**. Arlene Epperson agreed to take the lead in finding sources of local grown foods and setting the menu.

Work Days for the year are proposed as April 30th, October 15th and December 10th (a combination of clean up and greening the building for Christmas). The Christmas Party date might be on Dec. 11th at rise of Meeting. Mona will take these dates to Meeting for Business for approval.

Simple Gifts Bazaar: Because there is a possibility of two events the Meeting may host in November (SEYM and FWCC), it was felt that having the bazaar in late October would be more advisable. October 29th may be a good date.

A Walk in the Quaker Woods ♦ Jean Larson ♦ February 21, 2011

Photographs by *Bill Mitchell*

Spring is coming in. This month I have walked several times in the woods since returning from Europe where I encountered snow on the ground in Germany and drizzling rain on the city streets of Paris where I stopped to enjoy cheeses in shop displayed like jewels.

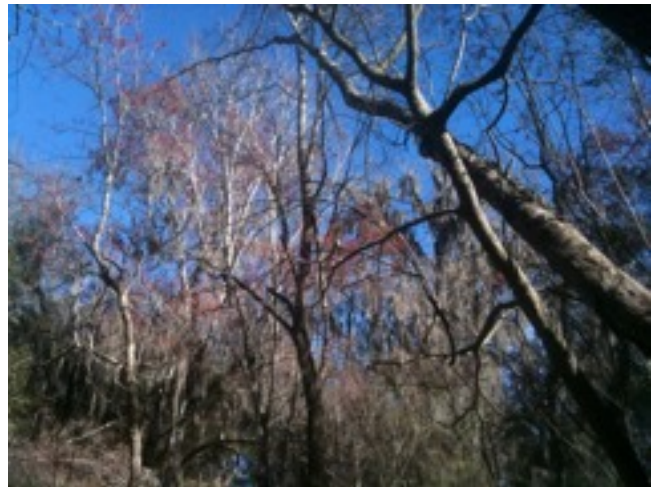


On an early visit to the woods I saw tiny red flowers displayed on a yellow rubber ball that had floated in, one of a stream of items that arrive on the waters that flood through during our rains. I wondered what tree had shed them as I noticed their wide presence on the sands, but never did figure it out.



On a later visit to the woods I noticed more birds than I usually see and then saw sprinkled on the sand of the ditch small red berries, and looking up I realized they were from a hackberry tree. On entering the woods near the meeting for worship in nature area, where I look forward to worshipping next month, I noticed light green at the tips of the branches and looking closely realized they were tightly furled hop hornbeam flowers just starting on the path to opening up.

On Sunday I came a bit early to drop off my bean salad, and spent a few moments enjoying the sunshine at the door to the social room and watching the bees visit the flowers on the rosemary bush. In worship on Sunday I looked up at one point to see backlight redbud blossoms shining in the sun, making me think of the divine light within all of us. At rise of meeting, the children came in to share their thoughts on signs of spring: flowers and children playing outside. They planted red potatoes in their garden, with the eyes up. We'll be watching to see how they grow.



While in Paris I visited a botanical garden with a very nice display on the family tree of green plants. The photograph taken by Bill includes a portion of the tree with mosses at the right end, followed by ferns (neither have seeds). The seeded plants come next with the conifers (no flowers), then plants related to the magnolias separate from the other flowering plants. I enjoyed thinking about the Florida native plants that fit the various categories.

Peacemaking Programs at the Mennonite Meeting House 1236 NW 18th Avenue, Gainesville.

Blueprint for Non-violence: An Introduction to Mahatma Gandhi's Most Controversial Book by Hind Swaraj presented by Jim Wright on Friday March 4th from noon-1pm. This first session is an introduction to a five-week series on the book being presented on Monday nights from March 7th - April 4th at 7- 8:30 pm. The March 4th introduction is a brown-bag lunch, presentation and discussion. Drinks will be provided.

The Rev. Jim Wright is a long-time student and follower of Mahatma Gandhi. He is currently Vicar of Christ Episcopal Church, Cedar Key. Copies of Hind Swaraj will be available for a suggested donation of \$12.00. For more information about schedules and venues, contact Eve MacMaster, 377-6577



Chinese
Dinner &
Auction